

INTERN/PRACTICUM CERTIFICATION

A student who is registered in an Interpreter Training Program (ITP) approved by the BCI, and is required to interpret in order to fulfill the curriculum requirements for an internship or practicum course, may apply for and be granted an **Intern/Practicum Certification**. Verification of registration in the internship or practicum course by the director of the ITP is required.

PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE

A **Provisional Certificate in Education (PCED)** is available for individuals who wish to interpret only in preschool, elementary and/or secondary school settings. This term-limited certificate is renewable only if the individual demonstrates improvement in their skills through performance testing in the MICS.

CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE

All interpreters, including holders of a PCED, are required to obtain 1.2 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) annually in order to keep their certification current and to qualify for annual renewal of their license. This is equivalent to 12 hours of professional development activities. All continuing education activities must be approved in advance by the BCI, and CEU documentation must be submitted to the MICS Coordinator annually. Almost all events that have been approved for MICS CEUs are posted on the MCDHH website (www.mcdhh.mo.gov).

SKILL LEVEL STANDARDS

A Skill Level Standards rule (5 CSR 100-200.170) was developed in order to protect the health, welfare and safety of consumers of interpreting services. It contains a non-exhaustive list of various settings and events where interpreters often practice. The settings are grouped into eight general categories, namely, Legal, Government, Medical, Employment, Mental Health, Financial, Education, and Entertainment. And for each setting or event the certification level or levels that are appropriate for interpreters practicing there are given.

COMPLAINTS

If you have a problem with an interpreter and want to file a complaint against that interpreter, you are encouraged to contact the Missouri State Committee of Interpreters. They have statutory authority to investigate complaints and discipline interpreters if appropriate. If you need assistance in filing your complaint about an interpreter, feel free to contact the MCDHH office.

MICS CONTACT INFORMATION

For applications and/or information concerning the MICS, contact the MICS Coordinator at:

Missouri Commission for the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
1500 Southridge Drive, Suite 201
Jefferson City, MO 65109

(573) 526-5205 (V/TTY)
(573) 526-5209 (FAX)

www.mcdhh.mo.gov
BCI@mcdhh.mo.gov

SCI CONTACT INFORMATION

For applications and/or information concerning licensing, contact:

Missouri State Committee of Interpreters
3605 Missouri Boulevard
P.O. Box 1335
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1335

(573) 526-7787 (V)
(573) 526-0661 (FAX)

www.pr.mo.gov/interpreters.asp
interpreters@pr.mo.gov



Missouri Interpreters Certification System (MICS)



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Deaf and Hard of Hearing
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MICS HISTORY

The **Missouri Interpreters Certification System (MICS)** was established by the Missouri legislature in 1994 with the passage of Senate Bill 568. That statute (209.285-339, RSMo) requires anyone who engages in the practice of interpreting within the state of Missouri to be both certified and licensed.

That statute established two separate boards with responsibility for administering the certification and licensure systems. The Board for Certification of Interpreters was created within the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Missouri State Committee of Interpreters was established within the Division of Professional Registration. The existence of separate governing boards requires a close working relationship and open communication between the two. However, each has its own statutory authority and duties.

BCI

The **Board for Certification of Interpreters (BCI)** is composed of five members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Two members must be deaf, two must be certified interpreters, and one can be either deaf or a certified interpreter. This board is responsible for:

- Determining the most appropriate testing materials for interpreter certification;
- Recruiting and training persons to serve as evaluators in the certification process;
- Evaluating individuals and issuing levels of certification based on proficiency;
- Establishing standards of interpreter skill levels required in various interpreting settings;
- Developing and maintaining a statewide registry of interpreters;
- Developing a grievance procedure for complaints regarding the certification process; and
- Maintaining the quality of interpreting services through professional development activities.

SCI

The **Missouri State Committee of Interpreters (SCI)** is composed of seven members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Five members must be interpreters and two members are “public” members. At least one public member must be deaf. This committee is responsible for:

- Issuing licenses to interpreters;
- Enforcing the Interpreters Ethical Rules of Conduct (4 CSR 232-3.010);
- Investigating complaints against interpreters for violations of the laws and rules concerning interpreting; and
- When appropriate, suspending, revoking, or otherwise disciplining interpreter licenses.

TESTING COMPONENTS

The MICS consists of two separate testing components — a written test and a performance test.

The content of the **written test** varies, and may include questions concerning general interpreting procedures, issues facing interpreters, Ethical Rules of Conduct, laws and administrative rules governing interpreting in Missouri, and other issues related to deafness. An applicant must score 85% or better on the written test before being allowed to take the performance test.

The **performance test** assesses the individual's ability to interpret from spoken English to American Sign Language (ASL) and from ASL to spoken English, as well as to transliterate from spoken English to some form of Manually Coded English (MCE) and from MCE to spoken English.

PERFORMANCE TEST

There are two different stages in the MICS performance test. In the first stage, interpreting competence at the first three levels of certification is evaluated, while in the second stage evaluators assess interpreting competence at the two highest levels. An interpreter must already have achieved an Intermediate level certification from the first stage of testing before being allowed to proceed to the second stage.

CERTIFICATION LEVELS

The level of certification earned through performance testing will reflect the evaluators' assessment of an interpreter's maximum performance ability in both interpreting and transliterating. The following MICS certification levels may be awarded:

- **Novice** — for those who achieve a score of 50% - 69% during the first stage of testing; an annually renewable 3-year term certification.
- **Apprentice** — for those who achieve a score of 70% - 84% during the first stage of testing; an annually renewable 3-year term certification.
- **Intermediate** — for those who achieve a score of 85% - 100% during the first stage of testing; an annually renewable certification.
- **Advanced** — for those who achieve a score of 80% - 89% during the second stage of testing; an annually renewable certification.
- **Comprehensive** — for those who achieve a score of 90% - 100% during the second stage of testing; an annually renewable certification.

RESTRICTED CERTIFICATIONS

Interpreters who only want to provide interpreting services in elementary and/or secondary school settings may be granted a **Restricted Certification in Education (RCED)**. An RCED is annually renewable and may be obtained through either performance testing or conversion.

Educational interpreters may choose to obtain an **RCED (General)** certification that will allow them to interpret in any grade from Kindergarten through the 12th grade. The RCED (General) may be obtained by achieving an Intermediate level score during the first stage of the MICS performance test in either interpreting or transliterating.

An **RCED (K-6)** allows the holder to interpret only in Kindergarten through grade 6, and an **RCED (7-12)** allows the holder to interpret only in grades 7 through 12. Both of these certifications can be obtained only by conversion from the Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment (EIPA) system. The EIPA Elementary converts to the MICS RCED (K-6), and the EIPA Secondary converts to the MICS RCED (7-12).